MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR LAND APPLICATION OF DRY ANIMAL WASTE

Testing: Use periodic soil tests to monitor the nutrients available in the soil and to identify any increase in materials that may be toxic to plants and/or animals. Wastes should be tested where possible to determine actual nutrient production.

Application: Spread dry wastes uniformly to prevent excessive application rates in a small area. Do not cover more than 20 percent of plant leaves with solid waste. Application rates greater than 4 tons per acre per application are not recommended due to excessive plant coverage. Multiple applications are recommended where annual applications exceed 4 tons per acre. Avoid application of waste to grasses during germination and seedling stages. The best time for application is after a period of grazing or following each hay harvest. Avoid soil compaction by applying wastes on soils that are dry enough to support spreading equipment. *Land application of dry animal waste must be at least 25 feet from nearest adjoining property line and at least 150 feet from nearest un-owned (by the applicant) occupied dwelling..*

Utilization: Use waste to provide fertility for crop, forage, or fiber production. Avoid application of waste at rates greater than the crop's nutrient requirements (see Waste Utilization Worksheets). Supplemental fertilizer may be needed to balance nitrogen, phosphate, and potash applications with plant needs. Because nutrients from animal waste gradually become available over a period of years, annual applications on the same field may need to be reduced in succeeding years.

Incorporation: Incorporation of waste into the soil is recommended where incorporation is possible. This conserves nitrogen, reduces the chance of rain washing pollutants into streams, and holds down odors.

Odor Control: Spreading animal waste on the surface will often produce nuisance odors. Spread in remote areas or incorporate waste into the soil where possible. Take advantage of the prevailing wind direction with respect to neighbors. Apply waste on days and at times when neighbors are less likely to be involved in outdoor recreation. Morning applications usually reduce the spread of odors because air is more likely to be rising.

Water Quality: To prevent animal waste pollutants from being washed into streams, practice effective erosion control and leave a vegetated buffer zone (*at least 50 feet*) between waterways or ditches, water bodies or streams, and the land on which waste is applied. Do not apply waste when inclement weather is forecast within the following 1 to 3 days, or immediately after a rain when the soil is saturated with water, or when the ground is frozen.

Storage: Storage of dry waste may be necessary to facilitate application rates, timing of application or crop needs. A permanent structure (dry stack) may be used or waste may be stored outdoors in a well-drained area away from floodplains, “State” waters, and other water bodies. “State” waters include roadside ditches and other streams. The piles should be protected from runoff by a diversion if necessary and surrounded by a berm to prevent leaching from the piles. Waste stored more than 6 days will be completely covered by a waterproof plastic to prevent fly breeding. Waste should not be piled more than 7 feet deep to help prevent overheating.

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